THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, June 1, 1807.

MEMOIRS *of* FREDERICK III. KING *of* PRUSSIA.

FREDERICK WILLIAM III. is the grandson of Frederick II. commonly called the *Great* Frederick, who died in the year 1786. Frederick William II. father of his present majesty, died on the 19th of November, 1797. The first of these two monarchs lived to a good old age by avoiding all manner of intemperance, though of a convivial or social disposition, He was of a literary turn, but had endured great hardships in the field. Frederick William II. had made several campaigns, but his infirmities were the consequence of excess of pleasures, and a dropsy terminated his life, to the regret of his family, and a few friends who did justice to the beneficence of his disposition, but who could point out no acts of heroism or magnanimity which deserved a glorious remembrance. His father left behind him coffers full of money, and two hundred and fifty thousand well disciplined soldiers, bearing the character of the first troops in Europe. When the present king ascended the throne, the expences of the war, the malady of his father, his profusion, and his mistresses, had so exhausted the royal treasury, that he was obliged to commence his reign by negociating a loan at Frankfort. It may be recollected that the late king was a disciple of the *illuminati*, by whom he was amused with deceitful promises of recovering health, 'till within a few hours of his decease.

The ancestors of the present family were of Swabian origin, being counts of Zollern or Hohenzollern. They became burgraves of Nuremburg, and in that quality converted a delegated power into a sovereignty, as many other princes have done. In 1248 the burgrave Frederick II. obtained possessions in Franconia, which afterwards became the principalities of Anspach

and Bareuth. The burgrave Frederick V. in 1415, having amassed vast wealth, purchased of the Emperor Sigismund the margraviate of Brandenburg, and this obtained him the electoral dignity. The Elector Albert (surnamed Achilles) ordered by will in 1473, that the margraviate of Brandenburg, with all its dependencies, should be the indivisible inheritance of the first born; and treachery some time after obtained new aggrandizements for this house, by the deceit practised on the knights of the teutonic order and templars; by which a succeeding margrave, who had been appointed for their security grand master, robbed them of East Prussia, as they had been before of the New Mark, by his predecessor. Sigismund, who married the only daughter of Duke Albert, obtained the government and investiture of Prussia in 1711, and in 1618 he united it to the electorate.

Soon after, by the extinction of the right line of the dukes, the elector of Brandenburg succeeded to the dutchy of Cleves, as well as the counties of Mark and Ravensburg. In 1640, Frederick William, who was called the great elector, ascended the throne surrounded by ensanguined ruins, the work of his weak predecessor; but after bringing an inauspicious war to a successful conclusion, he obtained, by the peace of Westphalia, the bishopricks of Minden, Halberstadt, and Camin, with other possessions. This prince had about two millions of subjects, from whom, according to authentic documents, he received the annual sum of 1,533,795 crowns. The wars of Louis XIV. drew Frederick William into many combats, thereby affording him an opportunity of acquiring the reputation of being a great general.

Frederick I. a fortunate, but vain prince, crowned himself king of Prussia, on the 18th of January, 1701, and successively obtained the acknowledgement of this new dignity by all the courts of Europe, except the holy see. He encreased his sovereignty by the principality of Neufchatel, and the countries of Julenberg and Hohenstein.

King Frederick William I. augmented his army to 100,000, and with these and the battle of Pultowa, he obtained the wished-for opportunity of driving the Swedes almost entirely out of Germany; and the peace of 1720, with the sum of 2,000,000 of crowns, secured to him the possession of Hither Pomerania, the fortress of Stettin, and the islands of Usedom and Wollin, important possessions, as rendering Prussia master of one of the mouths of the Oder, thereby opening the Baltic sea to her commerce. This king left to his successor 2,700,000 subjects, a revenue of 1,250,000l. sterling, and an army of 76,000 men.

Frederick II. commenced his reign in a manner to alarm the house of Austria with the apprehensions of a rival. His war

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in Silesia gained him that rich province, which after the havock made in it, contained nearly 1,200,000 inhabitants, but which at his death had 1,582,000, and now contains by the last census 2,048,000.

He acquired without force the port of Embden, in East Friezeland, and in 1772 he also seized, without taking a sword in his hand, West Prussia, and the district of Netze, a country then almost lying waste, but since better cultivated, and deriving great importance, as opening a communication between ancient Prussia, and Pomerania, and Brandenburg. The possessions of Frederick when he died, comprised 10,000 square leagues, 5,800,000 subjects, 2,500,000 of which he had acquired himself. His revenue was above 5,000,000l. sterling. His treasury at his death contained upwards of 8,000,000 in specie, and in his pay he had a chosen army of two hundred and sixteen thousand men!

Prussia, by the second and third partition of Poland, has been augmented by two new provinces, called South Prussia and New West Prussia; which, by the last enumeration, were found to contain together more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.

Frederick William II. acquired two millions and a half of subjects, but he died without respect, without glory, and from the causes we have before mentioned, less rich, and less powerful, than his predecessor.

His present majesty obtained very valuable acquisitions for Prussia while she continued in amity with France, for although the latter power prevailed on him to cede the duchy of Cleves and its dependencies, she received in the way of indemnity or exchange, the bishoprick of Paderbern, Hildesheim, and Munster, part of the territories of Erfurt and Eichsfeldt, besides six abbeys and three small imperial cities; thus obtaining 513,000 inhabitants in lieu of 133,000 which she had ceded; all this was effected in spite of the remonstrances of Austria, and all the princes of the empire.

The Prussian dominions in 1805 extended 15,516 square leagues, and the population amounted to 9,640,000 persons. Four millions are given to Prussia, two millions to Silesia, upwards of two millions to the electorate, Pomerania, Magdeburg, &c. The remaining million and a half are in the small provinces in Westphalia, Franconia, and Lower Saxony.

In the exchange which recently took place between Prussia and France the former gained considerably, not altogether from the intrinsic value of the places given her in exchange for Neufchatel, Anspach, Essen, and Werden, &c. but more particularly by their position, since they connected together the mass of the other Prussian possessions in Germany, giving to Prussia the command of the Elbe and Weser, the natural channels of her commerce, and that of the contiguous states.

With these facts and circumstances before us, we cannot but feel a degree of surprise at the conduct of the court of Berlin. The Prussian possessions perpetually augmenting in extent and value; with an increasing influence in the diet, and a proportionable diminution of power in the rival of his majesty, we think there must be some private cause for committing all this to hazard, which has not yet been guessed at.

For the entering upon this momentous war against a power which Prussia had contributed to exalt at one time, and neglected to abase at another, when equally in its power, his majesty gives the following public reasons in his proclamation, dated at Erfurt, the 2d of October last. The first is, that the political state of France has been the scourge of humanity for the last fifteen years. This, abstractedly considered, would be a strong reason for arming against such a government. It would be more than a chivalrous, it would be at once a noble and a humane reason in the king for calling his forces into the field to check the overbearing sway of so daring and insulting an adventurer. But with what grace, with what consistency does the mouth of Frederick William III. offer such a reason? If that king has uniformly considered the proceedings of the French government in so detestable a light, why has he observed so mysterious, and at times so unexpected a neutrality; when it was in his power, at more than one critical moment, to have strengthened the arm raised for the purpose of breaking the scourge? The Abbé Syeyes could offer a secret proof of the unseasonableness of this reproach of the king of Prussia against the French government; and that it would better become any other crowned head in Europe. His majesty, however, rightly adds, that whoever may have been the persons who in rapid succession have been placed at the head of the government of France since the year 1792, the unvariable and ruling character of it has been an insatiable ambition. That power alone, which knows in secret what passeth in the heart of man, can discover whether there was any sincerity in Bonaparte's wishes for peace. This warrior may say, that if at any one period since he has ascended the throne he had reposed on his arms, a coalition would ever have been ready to disturb that repose; and consequently that he has been fighting for his own preservation. He would add probably, that in every new contest something has fallen out of his adversaries hand into his own. Whether there would be or not, less truth than speciousness in this kind of defence, it cannot but be lamented that the advice of a great statesman, now no more, was neglected, which was, to leave France to herself, and not make her familiar with her own strength.

The memorials of kings are often but an artful display of words, with a very small portion of sound logic. This of the king

king of Prussia is of the above description, and perhaps none has ever been penned that so little interested its reader; for it speaks of the violations committed on Holland and Switzerland, and of the injuries done the kings of Sardinia and Naples, as if his Prussian majesty had ardently essayed to prevent such wrongs, and had not stood silently by to witness them. With respect to the condition of Portugal, it is not amongst the least remarkable passages in this late declaration, that his majesty enumerates its dependent and precarious state as one among the other grievances laid to the charge of France; since it is well known that this power had paid for what the king properly enough calls a deceitful security, before the arrival of any one of the last French ministers at Berlin, whom his majesty received so graciously. It is truly affecting to hear Frederick William say, when we consider by whose hands he has fallen, that Prussia was the first power to acknowledge Napoleon as emperor, and that during six years she acted as a friendly neighbour. But it was certainly being too civil by half to one neighbour, to allow him to commit an injustice upon another and nearer neighbour; and this was the case in suffering the French to take possession of Hanover. The manner in which it was afterwards disposed of, implicates his majesty in this unjust proceeding; for assured we must be, that but for an existing understanding between the emperor of France and king of Prussia, the former durst not have committed this violence and insult on the whole body of the electors of the empire, exhausted as their head or chief might be, after the late arduous and unfortunate struggle: Sensible of the weakness of this part of his pleading, and the little title it has to public opinion, or approbation, the king is obliged to say, in this instance, he countenanced an act of injustice, therefore was it his view to remedy it. Prussia, continues the declaration, "offered herself for it instead of England, and the condition on which the latter should cede it." This cannot but remind a reflecting reader of the familiar phrase, *to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds.*

(To be continued.)

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 408.)

"THE situation of Merit's affairs," continued his lordship, "became now truly critical; and that involuntary principle

ciple of humanity, which from the first had attached me to him, strengthened by circumstances, began to rise into ardency, and I became still more warmly interested in his behalf. Something was immediately to be done; and I proposed attending him, without delay, to the chambers of Serjeant Pleadwell, a gentleman of acknowledged ability in his professional line, and of strict integrity as a man. We found him at home, and my friend stated the particular circumstances I have now related to you, and the miraculous preservation of the will, which he had long considered of no worth, and had been thrown into the chest among other papers without attention.

" Mr. Pleadwell requested to see the will, but Merit, long looking on it of no importance, had left it with his manuscripts at Exeter. He could affirm it was safe, having had it in his hand since his arrival, and explained its tenor.

' Do you recollect, Sir, the precise period this will was executed?'

' I cannot *exactly* say; it may be seven or eight and twenty years; I cannot now speak to a year or two more or less.'

' Was it before or after the birth of the nephew, Mr. Meanly?'

' It must have been long before the marriage of his mother. Both the wills were drawn by the same attorney, executed at the same time, and witnessed by the same persons; and that a very *considerable* time, some years before I embarked for Lisbon; and there I remained near two years, it might be more, before I married; and it is somewhere about that time, my friend informed me of the joyful event of the recovery of his sister, whose child, I think, was then about two or three years old; but the letter is still in my possession, and entirely explicit on this head.'

' Do you remember the name of the attorney that drew the will?'

' Mr. Traverse, of Lincoln's Inn.'

' That gentleman, I have the pleasure to inform you, is still living; he may, probably, recollect something of the transaction, and throw additional light on this business. I will send for him directly.'

" Mr. Traverse soon obeyed the summons. He appeared instantly struck with the face of Merit, as if in recollection of a former knowledge. My friend took his hand, with—' Mr. Traverse, do you remember me?'

' I cannot immediately call to mind, Sir, where.'

' My name is Merit.'

' What! the friend of the late Mr. Goodman, who sailed some years ago for Lisbon?'

' The same.'

" Compliments

" Compliments being over, the counsellor proceeded to explain the business, and his reasons for sending for him.

' Now, Mr. Traverse, do you recollect the drawing this will?'

' Most perfectly, Sir; I drew both the wills; they were executed together at this gentleman's lodging's, at a hatter's, in Holborn; and his landlord, Mr. Felt, and myself are witnesses. I cannot well forget the transaction, for having the honour of living on terms of intimacy with Mr. Goodman, 'till his decease, this gentleman, his friend, became often the topic of conversation, and we have more than once referred to the circumstance."

' Have you any knowledge, Mr. Traverse, of a will, made by Mr. Goodman, subsequent to this?'

' I cannot say I have; but so material a circumstance, I am certain he would not neglect; and I have reason to suppose *did* make one: for in lamenting the unhappy destiny of his much-loved sister, who, it was thought, died of a broken heart, in consequence of ill usage from her husband, who had been also neglectful of the boy, Mr. Goodman found himself compelled to bring up, and educate his nephew, at his own expence. I say in lamenting these misfortunes, Mr. Goodman once particularly adverted to the will, he had formerly executed, in favour of his friend in Lisbon; saying, circumstances were greatly changed on both sides, since the period alluded to. Merit had a wife, himself a nephew, whom he sincerely loved, and who, were he not his lawful heir, should be handsomely provided for; but that his affection for his friend was still firm and unshaken, and whenever he died, he would find he loved him to the last as a brother.'

' Do you know, Mr. Traverse, whether his nephew, Mr. Meanly, knew any thing of the transaction relative to this will? which it is pretty evident was executed before his birth.'

' I rather think he did not, or that any person knew of the transaction but the parties concerned. Mr. Goodman has frequently talked to me of this gentleman, in the hearing of his nephew, and in a manner that must have apprized him of the very cordial affection subsisting between them.'

' This he utterly denies; disavows any will left by the deceased; and, from his apparent confusion, there is some mystery we must endeavour to unravel. Are you still upon terms of intimacy with the young gentleman?'

' Not in the least. There always appeared to me something subdolous and narrow-minded in his disposition; and I have often wondered at the partiality of Mr. Goodman, who was really fond of him, and blind to his faults; though, in other respects, a man of sound sense, and deep penetration. How he took possession of his uncle's effects, to a large amount

in the funds, whether by virtue of a will, or as heir at law, I am unacquainted; but it may easily be ascertained.'

'This, Mr. Traverse, you must endeavour to find out. Is the other witness, Mr. Felt, living?'

'For any thing I know to the contrary; but if not, I can easily prove his hand writing, having done a great deal of business for him. He retired on his fortune, into Hampshire, exactly where I cannot say, but can easily trace him.'

'Well, Sir, we will leave the investigation of this business to your own discretion. I think it will be proper for you to see the heir, and hear what he has to say on the subject. And, Sir, turning to Merit, I wish to peruse the will, as soon as you conveniently can.'

"Merit assured him he would set off for Exeter that very afternoon, and return without delay. Mr. Traverse waited on the heir the next morning, who received him coolly, and betrayed great emotion, when he mentioned the name of Merit; Traverse observing he could not be unacquainted with the sincere friendship so long subsisting between his uncle and that gentleman, Mr. Goodman so frequently talking of it in his hearing. This he could not summon up effrontery to deny, but putting on a very stern countenance, replied—'What then, Sir? what is this Merit to me?'

'That, Sir, I am commissioned to inform you of. If you possess your uncle's effects by virtue of a last will in your favour, you are perfectly safe; that will doing away, and entirely silencing a prior act; but if you have taken possession as the heir at law only, you have no claim to the effects of the deceased; a will being executed by Mr. Goodman in favour of John Merit, many years before your birth, and at the time your mother was lost to her family. It is very extraordinary that so prudent and sensible a man as the deceased should not reflect properly on a subject of such importance, which he could not have forgot, often speaking of the circumstance to me: for by not making a subsequent will, the former remains in full force, and I am sorry to add, young gentleman, leaves you entirely destitute; the will now in the possession of John Merit, claiming the whole of the property.

"You may readily conceive the consternation of the young man. At first he blustered, talked high, declared it a vile forgery, a combination to rob him of his just right, that he would sift the affair to the bottom, and hang every one concerned; but finding the attorney could not be intimidated, that he had himself drawn the will, witnessed it, and the other witness ready to be produced; and also, well knowing the strict integrity of the man he had to deal with, who would not have been seen in any dirty business; after a fit of raving, threw himself into a

chair, and burst into tears; where he sat, cowardly blubbering like a school-boy, exclaiming he was undone.

His situation was certainly a pitiable one; and seeing him so much affected, Traverse offered every thing in his power to console him; observing that from the high character he had heard of Mr. Merit, from Mr. Goodman, and the warm friendship, time nor absence had not obliterated, he might rest assured, such a man would not see him destitute; on the contrary, he was inclined to think, would make him a handsome provision, would he rely on his generosity, which he strongly recommended him to do, and not compel him to proceed to law, assuring him it was in vain to contest his claim.

" He sat for some time as if lost in thought, then suddenly started from his seat, paced the room, wrung his hands in agony, exclaiming he had undone himself by his own folly; and stopping short, cast on the attorney a look full of despair, saying—' Oh! Mr. Traverse, my uncle *did* make a will.'

' Produce it then."

' I cannot.'

' How so?'

' Destroyed, burned,—I have ruined myself!'

' Destroyed! destroy a will! explain, Sir.

' I own I knew of the friendship you have expatiated on between my uncle and this Merit, a reflection on which often gave me great pain, fearing he might prove a bar to my interest, but never heard of any will being made in his favour, or the least hint tending to such a circumstance. About three months before my uncle's death, he put a paper into my hand, saying it was his will, in which he hoped I should be fully satisfied. That he had upwards of 40,000l. in the four per cents. two mortgages of considerable value, which he named, with his town, country house, &c. The whole of which would be mine at his decease, paying a legacy of 10,000l. to his friend Merit; who, though married to a lady of rank in Portugal, was still in a dependent state; and should he ever be reduced, he should die in the comfort of his having a resource, and proving his friendship to the last. So large a sum as 10,000l. it was hard to part from; and knowing myself the heir at law, and my claim indisputable, I determined to suppress this will; and no enquiries of any kind being made, and remaining in quiet possession, I the other day burned the will, that the fraud might never be discovered, and am thereby undone!'

" The avowal of so atrocious a piece of villainy so petrified Traverse with horror, as to deprive him of the power of articulation; so, casting a look at him of ineffable disdain, took up his hat to leave the room.

' Stay, Sir, I conjure you; let this frank declaration plead in my behalf, a declaration without seeing the will; and if I would

add to the crime might procrastinate, at least, restitution; but I know your integrity, I know you would not have come here on a false pretence. I acknowledge my crime, and sincerely feel, acutely feel, the bitter pungency of remorse. I throw myself on the generosity of Mr. Merit, oh! plead to him in my behalf.'

'Are you not a villain?'

'I subscribe.'

'A most ungrateful villain! taken, after the death of your mother, from the very dregs of infamy, under the care of a vile woman, the associate of a dissipated father, whose shameful conduct broke your amiable mother's heart! taken by a respectable, tender, and affectionate uncle; cherished and educated as his own son; made a gentleman; endowed with fortune, splendidly endowed, to support the character with honour to yourself, and credit to the liberal donor, whose love and generosity made you a man! and all for what?—a little pelf—a mere nothing in the scale of possessions you might have enjoyed, in honourable calm repose, and the world's respect; but the villain's breast can feel no repose; the thorn of conscience bears a sting cannot be blunted, or its wounds healed, nor will admit of consolation or cure: and now detected in infamy, and incapable of supporting further fraud, avarice, and duplicity, meanly arrogates to himself the hope of pardon, where punishment is only due. Plead for pardon! first kneel to Heaven, and deprecate the vengeance of a justly offended GOD! A wretch like thee entreat for mercy! who has basely, and wickedly torn asunder the sacred bonds of Christianity, and of justice? vilely trampled on, and broken the ties of confidence and humanity, by impiously daring to violate the *will of the dead!* And with the assurance, that through *my* means, you have nothing to hope, leave you to the pangs of mortification, disappointment, reflection, and remorse.'

(To be continued.)

Particulars respecting the Manners of the Persians, and the Effects of Major Malcolm's Embassy to the Court of that Country.

[From Mr. Scott Waring's Tour to Sheeraz.]

I Found that it would be necessary for me to appear, either in the character of a gentleman or a beggar; unfortunately I chose the former. As it may be of service to some future traveller, I shall give a short account of the means I followed to accomplish my journey. My attendants were ten in number;

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a jilodar, or head groom; two mihturs, or grooms; two pesh khidmuts, servants who prepare your kuleen, and attend your person; a cook; and four curash men, who pitch tents, and perform any thing you order. I may remark on the difference between the servants of Persia and India; the former never hesitate to obey you, the latter will seldom do any thing but their immediate duty. In India it is necessary to have two men to one horse, in Persia one man will take much better care than seven.

The pesh kidmuts and jilodar are mounted on horses, the rest of our servants on mules. As it is the custom for your pesh khidmuts to accompany you on all occasions, it is requisite for them to have good clothes, and a respectable appearance; indeed, more depends upon the appearance of your servants and equipage, than on your own character and conduct. Your pesh khidmuts, besides your kuleen, should carry a muturu (or leathern skin) of water, and another of wine, and this you should be cautious not to forget, as water is seldom to be procured on your march. Some of your servants can in general sing, or rather chaunt, many of the odes of Hafiz and Sadee; or at any rate you should endeavour to get one who can, as it serves to beguile the tediousness of a long march by night.

It is expected (and essentially requisite, should you want assistance) that you should make some kind of present to the head person of the town or village you stop at. The most acceptable presents are shawls, muslins, kincobs, pistols, watches, satins, velvets, chintz, knives, spying-glasses, &c. and your present should be in proportion to the rank of the receiver, or the extent of your wants. You must be careful in not presenting any thing which is exclusively appropriated to the female dress, being the greatest affront you can possibly offer. A number of persons will be making you presents of fruit, &c. in the expectation of receiving a handsome reward; and should they be disappointed, you may rely on being regarded in a very contemptible light. It is therefore necessary for you to have a few pieces of qulum-kar (chintz), and coarse broad cloth, to give away to these needy beggars.

Since Major Malcolm's embassy to the court of Persia, the people of every village have been led to expect so much from European munificence and generosity, that you cannot avoid exceeding the bounds of moderation; the English traveller, however much he may lament this evil, cannot but feel gratified at an impression which reflects so much honour and credit on the British nation. The names of Major Malcolm, and the gentlemen who accompanied him, are mentioned in the liveliest terms of oriental panegyric; I do not recollect stopping at a single place where the inhabitants did not make many ea-

ger enquiries after the welfare of Major Malcolm and the gentlemen of his suite. It was out of my power to give them much information; and I suffered not a little in their estimation when I told them I was unknown to the whole party.

It cannot be expected that I should be informed of the motives for his embassy; but if one of them was to conciliate the Persians, and to impress on their minds a just and accurate notion of the power and character of the British nation, no embassy could possibly be attended with more complete success. One embassy had already preceded this, but the principles on which it was conducted were so different, as to make the Persians doubt whether both could come from the same nation.

The success with which Major Malcolm's embassy is universally supposed to have terminated, may be in a great manner attributed to his transacting every thing himself; to his being capable of conversing alike with the peasant and the king; and to his rejecting the intervention of Persian or Indian agency. It requires, perhaps, firmness and resolution to withstand importunity, and to dispense with the services of a useful and able man; yet how satisfactory must be the reflection, that what credit is gained is enjoyed alone, not to be participated with an acknowledged agent. It is a dangerous attempt to employ a native in any other line than his duty; it excites hopes we do not mean to gratify; he is supposed to have an influence he possibly does not possess; and if he has an opportunity of being long useful, he gradually acquires an ascendancy we do not ourselves observe. At best it is a system full of hazard; and it must be admitted, that is a system which may blast the fairest character, and ruin the brightest hopes. Where conciliation is necessary, or where we wish to inspire confidence, the intervention of natives must necessarily defeat our views; it cuts off all kind of intercourse with the inferior classes of people; it is a constant source of suspicion and distrust to those who are entrusted with the affairs of government, and who, of course, will leave no means untried to induce the agent to disclose the secrets of his master.

It is to an observance of a contrary system, that I would attribute the wonderful impression which has been made on the Persians in favour of the English character; an impression which bears honourable testimony to the merits of those into whose hands the embassy was committed, and which cannot fail of proving highly satisfactory to the British nation. The Persians were astonished at the information, courtesy, and generosity of the Europeans who had appeared amongst them, so different from what they had observed in their intercourse with the Russians on the borders of the Caspian Sea. But they were more particularly astonished at the knowledge every one appeared to possess of their manners and country; for the Persians

sians are not very inquisitive, and seldom trouble themselves with the history of foreign states. I should not forget to remark, that another subject of surprise was, the embassy not being composed of merchants, who are recorded in the Shah Ubas Namu, to be the only people who visited Persia.

Nothing further can be said of this embassy than that its departure was viewed with regret, and that another is most anxiously wished for by every description of people. I do not think that time is likely to efface the impression it has made in Persia, or that any foreign power will supplant us in the esteem and regard of the Persian nation. The Persians have at length learnt, that although we are not mooslims, we possess more information than themselves; and that though we are rich and powerful, we are not a nation of merchants.

INTERESTING TRIAL.

High Court of Appeal.

May 19, 1807.

ON Tuesday, a very important appeal came on to be heard before the lords of the privy council at their chamber, from the court of appeals in Jamaica. The amount in dispute was about 60,000l. and the question at issue was of the utmost importance to West India planters, merchants, and factors in general. The appellants were Messrs. Clement Kirwan, and Matthew Kirwan, of Richter-court, Lime-street, in the city of London; the respondents, Messrs. John Campbell and Francis Whittle, of Jamaica, merchants.

The circumstances of the case are as follow:—Messrs. Campbell and Whittle, in the month of March, 1799, sent a quantity of sugars to Messrs. Kirwan, of London, for sale, and at the same time directed them to insure the cargo from sea risk, on its voyage from the Havannah to London; they proposed, at the same time, to draw upon them for the amount of the sugars, and expressed their sanguine expectations of obtaining a high price. Messrs. Kirwan made the insurance accordingly, and notified the same to Messrs. Campbell and Whittle, and informed them, that at that time the market in this country for sugar was very flat. In September following, they again wrote to Messrs. Campbell and Whittle, informing them that their bills to the amount, would be honoured; but that still there was no near prospect of an advantageous sale. In subsequent letters, in October, 1799, and January, 1800, they stated the inexpediency of disposing of the sugars, while the market still continued so low; and Messrs. Campbell

Campbell and Whittle, in their answer, expressed their satisfaction at their conduct, and their gratitude for the care with which their interest had been consulted. Messrs. Kirwan deposited the sugar in Mr. Lingham's warehouse, in Thames-street, where there are frequently goods to the amount of 500,000l. deposited. In the month of July, Messrs. Kirwan insured the property against fire for three months, without having received orders to that effect, nor did they advise Messrs. Campbell and Whittle of it, but in their account charged the premiums. At the expiration of the three months, the market still continuing in such a state as to render the sale unadvisable, Messrs. Kirwan, not expecting a rapid improvement of the market, again, without orders, at their own discretion, insured the sugar for three months more; at the expiration of that period, viz. about the end of January, a better prospect opening, and Messrs. Kirwan being informed by their broker, that, so early as the 7th of February, a sale of Havannah sugars was to take place, and their's would then probably be disposed of; they, in consequence, judged it inexpedient to incur, for so short a time, the expence of three months premium of insurance against fire; unfortunately, however, on the 11th of February, a fire broke out in Lingham's warehouse, and the sugar, and goods, to an immense amount were destroyed. Messrs. Campbell and Whittle, the appellants, brought an action in the court of Jamaica, against Messrs. Kirwan, and respondents, upon the ground that they were bound to have continued the insurance upon property against fire, after its arrival in England. The cause was tried by a special jury, and they gave a verdict in favour of the appellants for 60,215l. 15s. and costs.

Lord Ellenborough, the master of the rolls, and Lord Henley, were the members of the privy council who attended to hear and determine this important cause.

The attorney-general and Mr. Stevens attended for the appellants; and Mr. Dallas and Mr. Scarlet for the respondents. During the able discussion of the question, the following important points of law, &c. with respect to trade, were laid down and admitted: the appellants having acted entirely from their own discretion, and there being no law to oblige them to insure, or custom in the trade to that effect, in insuring the property twice when on shore, without having any orders to that effect, they were not liable to the consequence of the fire, but were competent to act according to their own discretion.

The circumstances under which a consignee is bound to insure property consigned to him are as follow:

Where a merchant abroad has effects in the hands of his correspondent here, he has a right to expect that he will obey

an order to insure, because he is entitled to call his money out of other's hands, when and in what manner he pleases. The second class of cases is, where a merchant abroad has no effects in the hands of his correspondent; yet, if the course of the dealing between them is such that the one has been used to send orders for insurances, and the other to comply with them, the former has a right to expect that the orders for insurance will still be obeyed, unless the latter gives him notice to discontinue this course of dealing. Thirdly, if the merchant abroad send bills of lading to his correspondent here, he may ingraft on them an order to insure, as the implied condition on which the bills of lading shall be accepted, which the other must obey, if he accept them, for it is one certain transaction. If there be no obligation to insure, unless where these circumstances exist, even where an order has been given, surely *a fortiori*, there can be none where no order has been given at all.

The case occupied their lordships from ten o'clock 'till four, when, after mature deliberation, their lordships were pleased to reverse the verdict of the jury in Jamaica, thereby exonerating Messrs. Kirwan from being liable to make good the damages done by fire, they not having received any instructions to that effect.

Character of the late Sir William Forbes.

A Few weeks since died, at his seat near Edinburgh, Sir William Forbes, Bart. In this gentleman, who has thus closed a long and honourable life, society has to bewail a loss which will not be soon or easily supplied. Sir William Forbes was one of the distinguished few whom providence seems to have destined to purposes of the highest dignity and usefulness, by combining, with a station of great influence in society, the best attributes of the understanding, and the noblest qualities of the heart. Born to the inheritance of an ample fortune, he early devoted himself to the improvement of the commercial interests of his country, and was the founder, in conjunction with the late Sir James Hunter Blair, of the well known banking establishment, which now bears their mutual name. In this situation, the views of Sir William Forbes were never directed to the considerations of personal advantage, unconnected with the welfare of the community. His liberality and indulgence were unbounded in the numerous cases of mercantile transactions which came under his view, of which his luminous and expansive mind had first ascertained that the objects were judicious and honest; and many who now enjoy the comforts of independence, we doubt not are conscious, that they

they might yet have lingered in the struggle of life, but for the confiding liberality of Sir William Forbes.

The support and encouragement of all public concerns engaged much of the attention of this genuine patriot; and in public and private charity his liberality was at once exemplary and unostentatious. Many are the children of sorrow who bless his bounteous hand and sympathising heart, whose relieved distresses are known only to themselves. In the intercourse of private society, and in the bosom of his family, the qualities of Sir William Forbes were not less amiable than those of his public situation were honourable and useful. In his youth he had devoted much of his time to the study of elegant literature; and, during the course of his long life, he never lost sight of those liberal pursuits which early association had endeared to him, and which, while they relieved the pressure of his more serious avocations, lent a distinguished grace to his character. He united, in a degree which has seldom been attained, that acuteness and discrimination which are conferred by a knowledge of mankind, with the information of the scholar, and the courtly elegance of the gentleman; but in him the fascination of manner arose from the genuine feelings of his heart; he was polite and condescending, because he was humane and benevolent; he was open and gracious, because he was candid and sincere.

Sir William Forbes was one of the earliest members of the celebrated litarary club, which boasted amongst its other illustrious associates, the names of Johnson, Reynolds, Garrick, and Burke. He survived many of these eminent men, and, we believe, has left few of the original members behind him. The literary leisure of his latter days was devoted to the fulfilment of a task for which he was peculiarly fitted; we allude to his account of the life and writings of his friend Dr. Beattie.

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.

"FAR be from me the idea," says M. F. Ancillon, in his judicious work entitled Tableau des Révolutions du Systéme Politique de L'Europe depuis la fin de Quinzième Siécle, "of lessening the natural horror which war inspires, and in which I participate with all the friends of humanity! I desire only to prove that, in the general chain of events, good may sometimes arise from that destructive scourge: peace is, and always will be, the first of earthly blessings. But a nation ought never to forget that there is an evil greater than war—it is, the loss of her political independence, and of her national existence."

TOLLING *of* BELLS.

A French journal contains the following article:—"Experience proves that the moral affections, and particularly mournful ideas, exert a strong influence upon the minds of persons in a state of disease. After this observation it is not to be doubted that the too frequent sound of church bells, the dirges sung in the streets, and all the other mournful accompaniments of a funeral, which strike the senses, must inspire very disagreeable sensations in sick persons, and, in many instances, induce paroxysms which prove mortal. The minister of the interior, impressed with these considerations, has addressed a circular letter to the prefects and bishops of France, for the purpose of concerting measures for the suspension of such ceremonies at funerals, as may excite any disagreeable emotions in sick persons."

UTILITY *of* CONVERSATION.

IT is said of Duclos, that he never sat down to write 'till he had frequently conversed with his friends, on the subject he intended to treat; not for the purpose of receiving hints on the improvement of his work, but that the warmth of conversation might excite a quicker train of ideas in his own mind.

"With this assistance, (he would say) I find in a few hours, what it would take me whole days to acquire in my closet, and which I might, probably, not acquire at all. I would even talk to my servant if I could not procure a more competent judge to converse with; even this would be better than solitary meditation."

AMERICAN TOAST.

AMONG the toasts given at the last celebration of the Salem East-India Marine Society, in America, was the following: "The enemies of our country: may they be blessed with leaks, choaked pumps, sails rent, grog spent, wormy bread, wind a head—cloudy noon, at night no moon—compass lost, tempest tost, a winter's coast."

A QUESTION, *by Robert Maffett, of Plymouth.*

GIVEN $x^2y+yz=3090=a$
$x^2+yz=1042=b$
$x^2y^2-z=9210=c$

Where x, y, and z, denote my age in years, weeks, and days.

Answer, by J. A. Dyer, of Taunton, to W. D.'s Charade, inserted February 23.

THE wretched EXILE, banish'd from his home,
Obliged is in foreign climes to roam,
A wanderer there, full of despair and grief,
Nor can his friends come near to his relief.

☞ Similar answers have been received from W. Cave, Pitney; J. Ryan, of Stonehouse; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; and Loosemore, of Tiverton.

Answer, by T. Arden, of South Petherton, to J. Woodman's Rebus, inserted the 23d of February.

A HAWK's your plumy whole I know,
The initials plainly tell me so.
[This rebus is an old one.]

☞ We have received the like answer from J. Stoneman, and H. Ellis, of Exeter; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; W. D. of Bristol; J. Ryan, of East Stonehouse; J. Joyce, and Loosemore, of Tiverton; and S. D. of South Petherton.

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to G. A. F. Arden's Charade, inserted March 2.

JOHNSON will your poet tell,
So now no more, but wish you well.

*** Similar answers have also been received from Rusticus, of Awliscombe; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; J. Stoneman, and C. Saunders, of Exeter; a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers; Alexander, and J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; J. Woodman, of North Curry; J. C. of Ottery; W. H. H. of Totnes; S. D. of South Petherton; Thomas Coumbe, of St. German's; and W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey.

A REBUS, *by J. Woodman, of North Curry.*

ONE of old Neptune's train first bring to view;
A famous king whom great Hercules slew;
A light which often guides us thro' a town;
An ancient poet, once of great town;
A king who in the Trojan war was slain;
A town in Berkshire you will next explain;
Lastly, a bird that soars aloft in air:
Join these aright, a garment will appear.

A CHARADE, *by J. C. of Ottery St. Mary.*

WHEN stormy winds aloud do blow,
And the wild ocean roars,
My first to pieces oft doth go
Upon the rocky shores;
But now we haste to scenes more gay,
The fields and meadows green,
Where harmless lambs do skip and play,
My rural next is seen:
When Nelson fought both France and Spain,
Surely my whole did honour gain.

POETRY.

Lines, written by an Officer, immediately after the Battle of Maida, in Calabria.

THE British soldier sees the foe,
His heart with steady joy beats high;
And onwards now behold him go,
Resolv'd to conquer or to die.
On all sides now the bullets fly.
Wild spreads and wide the cannon's sound,
Already many brave men lie,
Pale, bleeding on the chilly ground.

Still mark the soldier's fearless eye,
As forward, forward still he goes;
And hark! the war-shout rends the sky,
Now, now, he rushes on his foes.
Now British valour deepliest glows
In the dread hour of doubtful life—
When fierce the polish'd bay'nets close,
As man meets man in mortal strife.

But where are warriors to be found,
To match the British soldier's sight?
Quick be his brows with laurels crown'd,
For he hath vanquish'd in the fight;
His foes are now dispers'd in flight,
Or sunk in an untimely grave;
He hath made good his country's right,
His country's thanks shall crown the brave.

The BUTTERFLY *and* MAGGOT.

A TALE.

By PETER PINDAR, *Esq.*

INSCRIBED TO A LADY.

HARRIET, for you I pen the tale,
Who, dove-like, seek the silent vale!
Rich in the virtues, rich in pow'rs of mind,
Content, where wisdom points the way,
In modest solitude to stray,
And leave a busling, frenzied world behind.

A Butterfly, of plumage gay,
Descended on a hazel spray,
Where dwelt a maggot in his nut,
Contented in his humble hut.

The coxcomb pertly now press'd in,
Exclaiming, with satiric grin,
"Who here's that bid the world farewell?
"Hoh! Master Maggot, are ye dead?"
The maggot heard—popp'd out his head,
Just like a hermit from his cell.

"What,

" What, Friar Maggot! alive and moping;
" Amid the dark for ever groping?
" Why, what a horrid life is thine!
" I range at will the hill and vale,
" I face the sun, enjoy the gale,
" And on the honied blossoms dine.

" Amid the fields of air I stray,
" And, tell me, who dares stop my way
" Not of proud man the crawling nation.
" Why, thou art e'en beneath the mole!
" Heavens, how I pity thee, poor soul!
" Thy birth disgraces the creation."

" What insolence (the grub replies);
" Alas! how vain are butterflies.
" Know, then, that Heaven my wishes grants,
" Contented with my humble food,
" I know that providence is good,
" And feel his bounty in my wants.

" Blaspheming creature learn, O learn!
" What thy dull optics can't discern;
" The hand which gave the sun its form,
" Fram'd ocean, bids the winds arise,
" Display's its pow'r on earth and skies,
" Displays a world within a worm."

The maggot ended—now behold!
The beau, with plumes of glitt'ring gold,
Was, with a grin, prepar'd to treat him;
When forth a sparrow hopp'd unseen,
Spoil'd Monsieur's meditated mien,
In triumph bore him off, and ate him.

How few simplicity endears!
Ah! who would lose, for sighs and tears,
The charms of friendship, love, and calm security,
To grandeur's giddy heights to climb?
The happy state, and true sublime,
Live in two words—contentment and obscurity.

January 27, 1807.

CARD PLAYING.

SEE yonder sober set; they only mean
To keep themselves awake, and chase the spleen;
These reckon gambling an atrocious crime,
And play for trifles just to kill the time;
Time, that with others flies so swift away,
With them must flag, and creep with dull delay.
Poor wither'd age, to second childhood brought,
That cannot read, and is averse to thought:
Amus'd with baubles, may forget the gout,
And dribble life's last dregs thus foully out,
Still pity views the scene with tearful eye,
Lamenting thus men live, and thus they die!
But blooming youth, or vig'rous years employ'd
At silly cards, is time indeed destroy'd.
Hour after hour condemn'd to such a fate,
Is so much blotted from life's scanty date,
Which busy memory reckons up at last,
Shrinks at their ghosts, and mourns the murder'd past!